

Racing to Read

An early literacy outreach program from the
Kenton County Public Library

Racing to Read is an innovative program designed by the Kenton County Public Library to serve children ages 0-5 at child care facilities. The *Racing to Read* program serves 38 childcare centers and 1,300 children in these centers. Staff from the *Racing to Read* program visit centers monthly. During each visit, Library staff read stories, sing songs and utilize other developmentally appropriate literacy activities to children. This allows them to interact with books, language, music and movement to help bring stories alive. After the stories, children and their caregivers are invited onto the *Racing to Read* vehicle to check out materials from among the collection of 6,000 items shelved on board the vehicle. In addition to books for children, the program also offers teacher resources and books so that caregivers can continue exposing children to books and reading.



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Program Goals:

- To better prepare children to learn how to read when they enter kindergarten
- To introduce children to the joy of books and reading
- To model to caregivers a way to share good books as both educational and enrichment tools

Vehicle Highlights:

- 2009 GMC Topkick Recreational Vehicle purchased with funds raised by Library's Annual Racing to Read 5K Walk & Run
- Handicapped accessible with wheelchair ramp
- Exterior awning provides shelter for outdoor storytimes
- Houses more than 6,000 materials including 5,996 books and 109 audio books and CDs
- Staffed trained in early childhood education
- 28 feet in length
- Deposit collections—Theme-based books and materials for teachers to use with their classes. Each kit has 15-20 books, one music CD and one professional book.



For more information visit, www.racingtoread.org.